

REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claim 6 is pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7 are canceled.

Claims 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Linnartz (U.S. Patent 6,209,092) in view of Matsumoto et al. (U.S. Patent 6,542,870), Tsutsui (U.S. Patent 6,496,898), Tagawa et al. (U.S. Patent 6,615,192) and Ryan (U.S. Patent 5,513,260). Claims 5-7 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Linnartz in view of McCready ("How to Register Your Copyright"), Tsutsui, Tagawa et al., and Ryan.

Claim 6 has been amended to correspond more closely with the embodiment of the invention shown in Figure 1. The present claims now recite "adding respective rights information individually to each of the selected audio programs, wherein the added rights information includes respective copyright information and charging condition information." (Claim 6) The charging condition information indicates any fees for purchasing/copying the audio program or album group. (Specification page 12) Applicants assert that none of the cited references discloses the adding of analogous charging condition information as part of the rights information as required in the present claims. Accordingly, for at least this reason, any combination of Linnartz, Matsumoto, Tsutsui, Tagawa, McCready, and Ryan fails to meet all of the recited limitations and the rejected claim 6 should now be allowed.

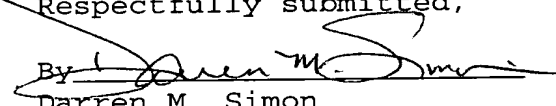
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

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Respectfully submitted,

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